

# Public Informational Meeting on Urban Chickens

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**May 10, 2010 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**CITY UTILITIES TRAINING CENTER  
301 EAST CENTRAL STREET**

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# Why Chickens in Springfield, Missouri?

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- Nationwide movement towards sustainable, local food production.
- Comprehensive Plan supports sustainable developments
- Chickens are currently allowed in Springfield in all zoning districts, but you must have 20 acres of land.

**The New York Times**



**“Chickens given roosts  
in urban backyards”**

## Current City Zoning Ordinance and Code for Keeping of Chickens in Springfield

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- Allows unlimited chickens with 20 acres of property with at least 12 square feet of area per chicken.
- Allowed in all zoning districts
- Must be 300 feet from other uses—schools, businesses, homes etc...

## Selection of U.S. Cities with New Ordinances since July 2008

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**Chapel Hill, NC**

**Wake Forest, NC**

**Durham, NC**

**Asheville, NC**

**Winston-Salem, NC**

 **Rogersville, Mo**

 **Columbia, Mo**

**Lawrence, KS**

**Provo, UT**

**Longmont, CO**

**Fayetteville, AR** 

**Moab, UT**

**Mulliken, MI**

**Arlington, MA**

**Cannon Beach, OR**

## Selection of Cities with New Ordinances since July 2008

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**Cleveland, OH**

**Taylor, TX**

**Huntington, NY**

**Gulfport, FL**

**Burnsville, MN**

**State College, PA**

**Portland, ME**

**Falmouth, ME**

**Missoula, MT**

**Fort Collins, CO**

**Ann Arbor, MI**

**Denton, TX**

**Draper City, UT**

**Baraboo, WI**

**Jefferson, WI**

**Buffalo, NY**

**Forest Grove, OR**

## Sustainability: Missoula, MT

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*"It seems that if we want to be a town that does its part for sustainability, this is something we ought to consider. I think we want to allow folks to use their good judgment and move toward more sustainable food practices." - Mayor John Engen, Missoula, MT*

# Benefits of Backyard Hens

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- Organic fertilizer
- Reduce solid waste
- Eat problematic insects
- Fresh eggs
- Fun and educational Pets
- Possible tourism/economic benefit
- Improved animal welfare
- Additional potential revenue for hardware and garden stores

# Fertilizer Production

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- 6 chickens would provide enough nutrients to meet the needs of the average residential lawn in Springfield
- Increase organic matter in soil
- Dog and cat waste cannot be used as fertilizer.



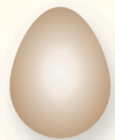
# Waste Reduction and Insect Control

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- Hens will eat fruit and vegetable scraps.
- Hens also enjoy eating a variety of insects such as ticks, Japanese beetles, slugs and mosquito larvae.

# Free-Range eggs provide superior nutrition

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Eggs from  
hens raised  
on pasture



Standard factory  
farm eggs

7 TIMES MORE

**Beta Carotene**  
79.03 mcg

10 mcg

2/3 MORE

**Vitamin A**  
791.86 IU

487 IU

3 TIMES MORE

**Vitamin E**  
3.73 mg

0.97 mg

2 TIMES MORE

**Omega-3s**  
0.66 g

0.22 g

1/3 LESS

277 mg

**Cholesterol**  
423 mg

1/4 LESS

2.4 g

**Saturated Fat**  
3.1 g

mcg = microgram  
IU = international unit

mg = milligram  
g = gram

# Egg Production Costs

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## ➤ First year's cost:

- ❖ \$5.74/dozen eggs

## ➤ Subsequent year's cost:

- ❖ \$1.44-\$1.76/dozen eggs

## ➤ Comparable costs:

- ❖ Farmer's Market: \$3.50/dozen

- ❖ Supermarket: \$2.20/dozen



# Chickens as Pets/ Educational Value

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## Alternative pets for people with allergies



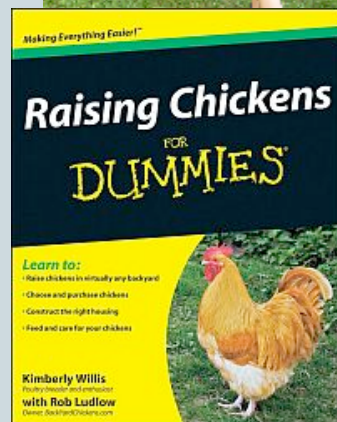
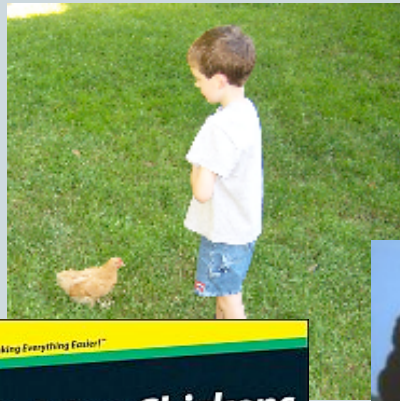


# Education/ local food production...where food comes from

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[www.mypetchicken.com](http://www.mypetchicken.com)  
[www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org)  
[www.TheCityChicken.com](http://www.TheCityChicken.com)  
[www.urbanchicken.org](http://www.urbanchicken.org)



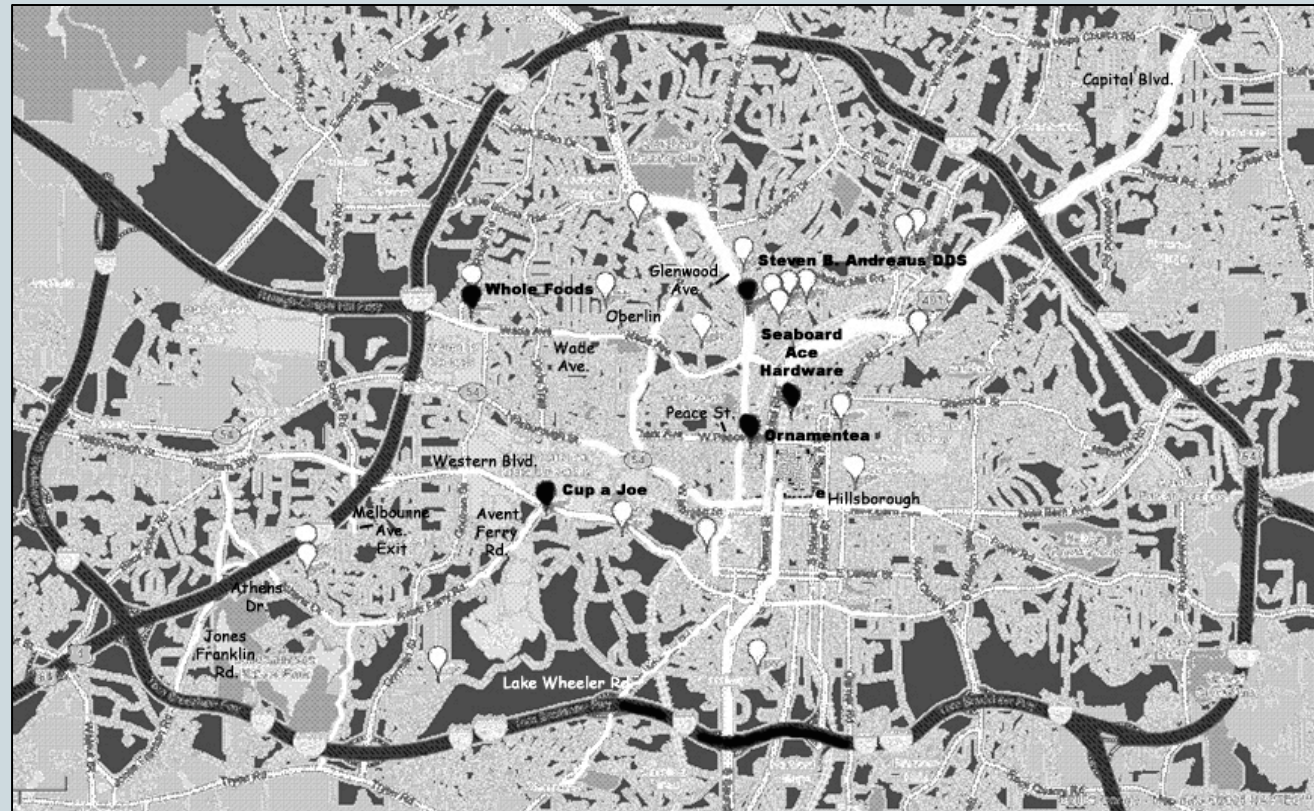


# Economic Development/Tourism Aspects

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**Raleigh NC's  
Annual Tour of  
Urban  
Chickens and  
their Coops**



**Fifth Annual Tour d'Coop - Saturday,  
May 15, 2010**

# Potential Concerns

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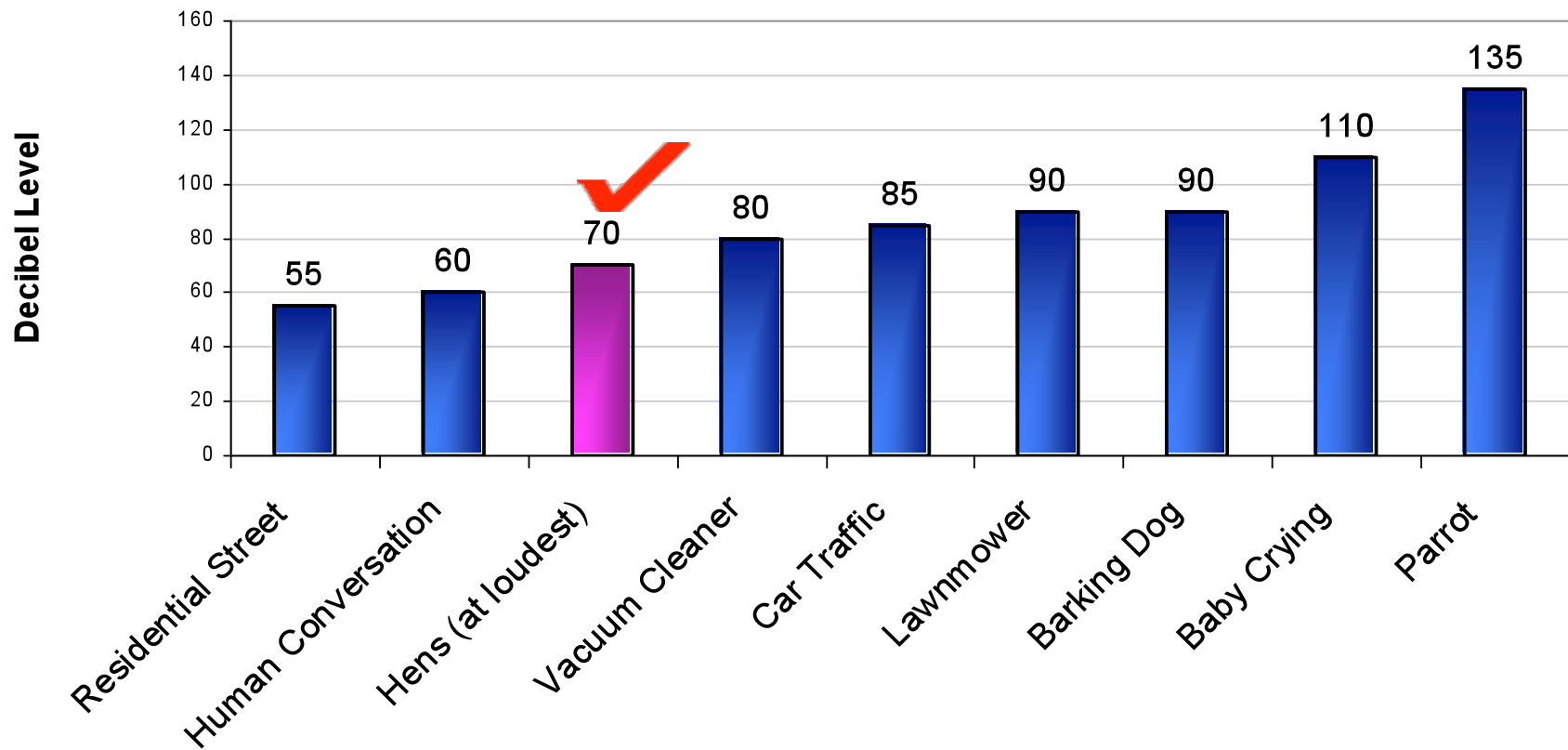
- Noise
- Waste and Odor Issues
- Disease Potential
- Predators and Nuisance Animals
- Appearance Concerns
- Slaughter

# Noise

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## Common Noises

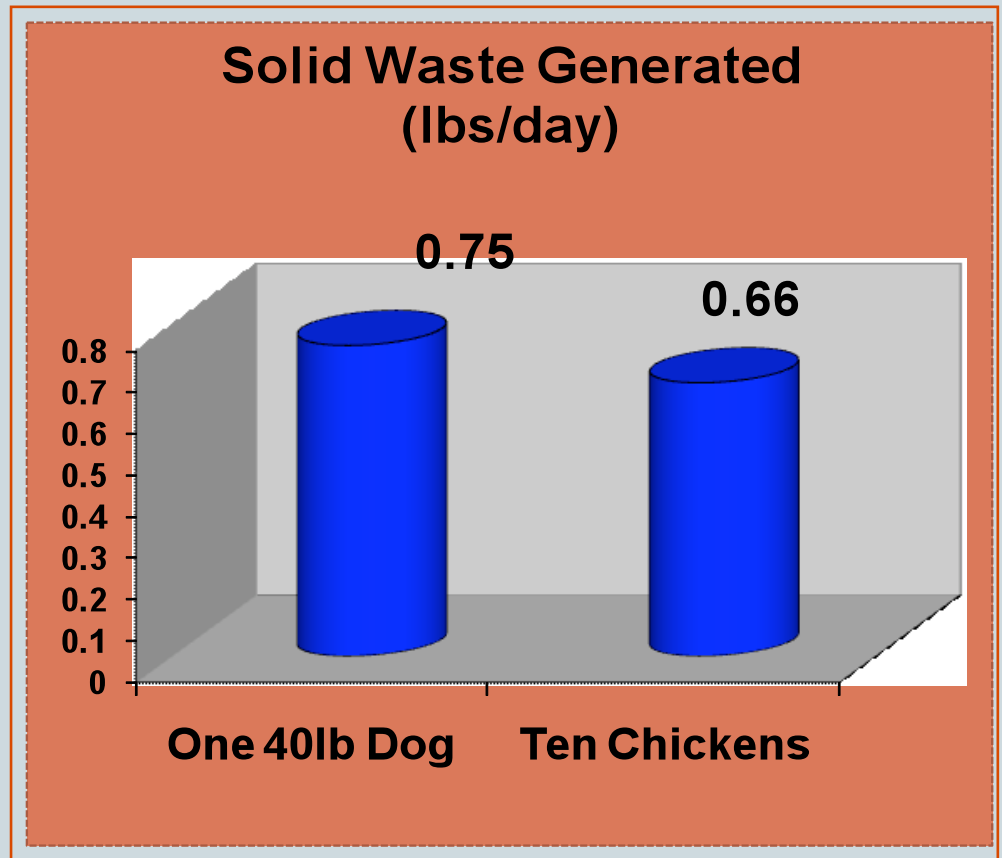




# Waste and Odor Issues

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- Chicken manure is valuable compost
- Springfield allows 4 dogs and 4 cats  
Cannot use waste
- Setbacks from neighboring residences



# Disease Potential

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## ➤ From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

❖ “In the United States there is no need at present to remove a flock of chickens because of concerns regarding avian influenza.”

➤ “When it comes to bird flu, diverse small-scale poultry farming **is the solution, not the problem.**” - 2006 GRAIN Report

# Predators/Nuisance Animals

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- Wild birdfeeders, pet food, gardens, fish ponds and trash all attract snakes, raccoons, and foxes.
- Requirements in ordinance to ensure proper food storage and that coops are predator-resistant.
- Chickens eat any possible insect pests and will even eat mice.

# Slaughter

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- Some cities have chosen to explicitly ban slaughter. Others have not...
  - ❖ Durham NC: “Slaughter shall not be visible from any adjacent property, public area, or right-of-way.”
  - ❖ Kansas City MO ....Killing, butchering or dressing of livestock, fowl, fish or other animals raised on the premises, provided that such killing, butchering or dressing is done in an accessory building, which building shall be located not less than 200 feet from any property line.

# Appearance Issues

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- Regulate the use of materials for coops.
- Sample excerpt from South Portland, ME code:
  - ❖ The materials used in making the structure shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials.
- Currently, other small accessory buildings could be equally problematic in appearance. These buildings are currently not regulated

# Sample Coop Pictures

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# Sample Coop Pictures

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# Sample Coop Pictures

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# Sample Coop Pictures

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<http://www.omlet.us>

# What is a Chicken Tractor?

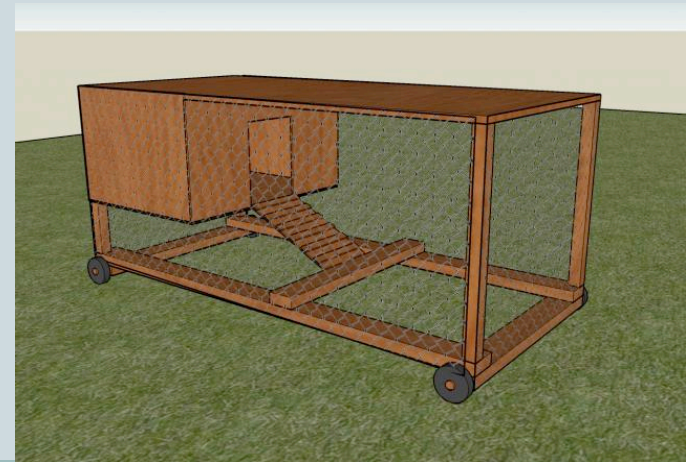
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- A chicken tractor is basically a portable coop with an attached run that allows the chickens to scratch and peck at the ground. This keeps the birds contained and safe yet, gives them access to bugs and fresh greens every day.
- Chicken tractors are ideal for backyard poultry. These units can be **easily moved** by one person to a fresh spot of ground every day. This prevents the droppings from accumulating in one spot and minimizes any smell. Additionally, the droppings are excellent fertilizer for the lawn and garden.



# Chicken Tractors

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# 2008 CNN Money Magazine “Best Places to Live” Ratings

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## Backyard Hens Allowed

- 2. Fort Collins, CO
- 3. Naperville, IL
- 4. Irvine, CA
- 5. Franklin Township, NJ
- 6. Norman, OK
- 7. Round Rock, TX
- 8. Columbia, MD
- 12. Highlands Ranch, CO
- 14. McKinney, TX



## No Backyard Hens Allowed 85. Springfield, Mo.



# Experiences of Other Municipalities

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➤ There were, however, common regulatory themes that emerged from the set evaluated. These common themes are as follows:

1. The number of birds permitted per household
2. The regulation of roosters
3. Permits and fees required for keeping chickens
4. Chicken enclosure/containment restrictions
5. Nuisance clauses related to chickens
6. Slaughtering restrictions
7. Coop distance restrictions in relation to home or property lines



## One Options for Springfield?

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- Six chickens, no roosters.
- Located no closer than 10 feet from property line and at least 25 feet from another residence or business.
- No at-large chickens allowed.
- Odors and noise covered under nuisance ordinance.
- No cost application: Performance Standards (contract)

# Details of Sample Ordinance

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- a. The maximum number of chickens allowed is **six (6)** per tract of land regardless of how many dwelling units are on the tract.
- b. Only female chickens are allowed. There is no restriction on chicken species.
- c. It shall be unlawful to engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.
- d. Chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse or chicken tractor during non-daylight hours.
- e. Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, neat and sanitary condition at all times.
- f. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade and must be impermeable to rodents, wild birds and predators, including dogs and cats.

# Details of Sample Ordinance

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- (g) Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents in the neighborhood.
1. A henhouse or chicken tractor shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird proof wire of less than one (1) inch openings.
  2. The materials used in making a henhouse or chicken tractor shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be well maintained.
  3. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens shall only be located to the rear of the dwelling or other main structure and may be located in the rear yard as required by the zoning code.
  4. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must be located at least ten (10) feet from the property line and at least twenty-five (25) feet from any adjacent residential dwelling, church, school or place of business.



# Details of Sample Ordinance

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- h) Any enclosed chicken pen shall consist of sturdy wire or wooden fencing. The pen must be covered with wire, aviary netting, or solid roofing.
- i) Odors from chickens, chicken manure or other chicken related substances shall not be detectable at the property boundaries.
- j) All uses shall operate in accordance with the noise standards contained in *Section 6-1500 the city Zoning Ordinance*.
- k) The chicken owner shall take necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation may be removed by an animal control officer.
- l) Chickens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times. The feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds and predators.
- m) The chicken owner must provide for the storage and removal of chicken manure. All stored manure shall be covered by a fully enclosed structure with a roof or lid over the entire structure. No more than three (3) cubic feet of manure shall be stored. All other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed. The henhouse, chicken tractor, chicken pen and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.
- n) No dog or cat which kills a chicken will, for that reason alone, be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal.

# Details of Sample Ordinance

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- o) Slaughter may occur for personal use provided that it is conducted in a sanitary manner, does not generate noise that creates a nuisance, and is not visible from adjacent properties or any public area or right-of-way.
- p) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep chickens in violation of any provision of this article.
- q) It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter or leaseholder of property to allow chickens to be kept on the property in violation of the provisions of this article.
- r) Any violation of this article that constitutes a health hazard or that interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provisions of the city.
- s) Each day that a violation of this article continues is a separate offense.
- t) All other City Codes shall apply.
- u) Keeping of six (6) or fewer chickens **performance standards**. Keeping of Chickens as defined shall follow the regulations of this Article except as modified herein. The property owner shall file an application with Director of Building Development Services to keep six or fewer chickens. A no or minimal cost permit is required to be issued. The property owner has the responsibility to follow all performance standards. Keeping of six or fewer chickens shall adhere to all performance standards and shall not create any adverse impact on adjoining properties. The Director of Building Services is authorized to issue a cease and desist order to any party violating the performance standards listed heretofore along with any other enforcement measures available to the Director of Building Services or the City.

# Case Study: Fort Collins, CO

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- Similar size and demographics to Springfield
- Hens legalized Sept 2008
- Animal Control Calls Last Year  
Total: ~12,000
  - ❖ Chicken Related: 3
- Two calls were unfounded welfare or nuisance complaints.
- Third was a “rogue” chicken

# Experiences of Other Municipalities

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- We have been gathering data from other municipalities that allow chickens.
- ❖ Cary NC Animal Control receives 3,159 calls per year.
- ❖ They estimated less than 9 calls per year regarding hens in Cary.

# Case Study: Columbia Mo

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- Hens legalized February 2010
- Complaints about Chickens: 2
- Springfield proposing similar ordinance as Columbia Mo. and Rogersville Mo.

# Additional Thoughts

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“More than one chicken owner I spoke to said that having chickens has *improved* neighbor relations” Missoula

Notebook – “Missoula in the Year of the Chicken”

12-18-2008

“Chicken people tend to be law abiding.” -Ron Towle, Madison City Zoning

# Additional Thoughts

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- So far, Missoula's urban chickens ordinance is remarkable for how little trouble chickens have turned out to be.
- "All in all, we don't see any huge problems with the chickens," Missoula County Animal Control Supervisor Ed Franceschina (just 14 complaints about chickens in the last year)."

# Process:



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- Public Meeting Tonight
- Plans and Policy Committee meeting TBD
- Planning and Zoning Commission Hearing TBD
- City Council Hearing TBD
- City Council Action TBD
- All these meetings will be public



# Other Cities Allowing Hens

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 New York, NY  
 Los Angeles, CA  
Topeka, KS  
Madison, WI  
Albuquerque, NM  
Spokane, WA  
San Antonio, TX  
Honolulu, HI  
Charlotte, NC  
Austin, TX  
San Jose, CA  
Memphis, TN

Ozark, Mo.   
Boise, ID  
San Francisco, CA  
San Diego, CA  
Seattle, WA  
Houston, TX  
Atlanta, GA  
Duluth, MN  
Mobile, AL  
Anaheim, CA  
Berkeley, CA  
St Paul, MN

# Other Cities Allowing Hens

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**Irvine, CA**  
**Portland, OR**  
**Petaluma, CA**  
**Santa Rosa, CA**  
**Colorado Springs, CO**  
**Miami, FL**  
**Sanford, FL**  
**Alpharetta, GA**  
**Des Moines, IA**  
**Sioux City, IA**  
**Evansville, IN**

**Republic, MO**   
**Chicago, IL**   
**Louisville, KY**  
**Baton Rouge, LA**  
**Cambridge, MA**  
**Northampton, MA**  
**Somerset, MA**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
**Raleigh, NC**  
**Corvallis, OR**  
**Rochester, NY**

# Other Cities Allowing Hens

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**St Louis, MO**

**Lincoln, NE**

**Omaha, NE**

**Santa Fe, NM**

**Las Vegas, NV**

**New Hempstead, NY**

**Syracuse, NY**

**Stillwater, OK**

**Pittsburgh, PA**

**Aikin, SC**

**Nashville, TN**

**Waco, TX**

**Battlefield, Mo**



**Orem City, UT**

**Burlington, VT**

**Everett, WA**

**Lynnwood, WA**

**Olympia, WA**

**Tacoma, WA**

**Vancouver, WA**

**Green Bay, WI**

**Denver, CO**

**Baltimore, MD**

**Hartford, CT**

# Questions or Comments?

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